

CHARITON COURIER

O. P. VANDIVER, EDITOR AND PROP.

KEYTESVILLE, MISSOURI

THE delegates to the Republican convention of the 10th Iowa congressional district refused to commend President Roosevelt for selecting Leslie M. Shaw as secretary of the treasury. There are a good many Republicans everywhere who feel the same way, but do not like to express themselves so freely for fear of disrupting "the party." If a convention could be held of the Wall street bankers, Shaw would win, hands down.

SPEAKER CANNON a few weeks ago was certain that congress would adjourn at an early date, and "the boys" would go home, mend their political fences, by pointing to what they had accomplished, and be triumphantly re-elected. But the Speaker is now more pessimistic and evidently feels that "the boys" are not on easy street, for he says: "I see no prospect of a very early adjournment. We'll be here some-time yet." And what makes the voters disgusted is that the Republican majority has not put a law on the statute book, with a vestige of reform in it, up to date, and this is the party that boasts of "doing things."

BILLS have been introduced in congress suspending for one year the duties on structural and other necessary materials for use in the construction of buildings in San Francisco and other Pacific coast cities affected by the recent disasters. This is the first political movement due to the earthquake. If the stand-patters have their way these bills will be defeated, on the principle that there must be no crack in the Dingley tariff wall, lest the people should discover that it was not of divine origin. It is all right to give money after it has been collected from the people by taxation, but it would be sacrilege to allow anybody to buy steel and lumber not protected by a tariff tax.

THE Pierce report on the congressional scandals is said to be missing and we can hardly blame the administration for wanting to suppress it, for it does a terrible tale unfold.

It now appears that Fields, the lobby agent of the Mutual Life Insurance Co., will be asked to account for the expenditure of almost \$2,000,000 for political purposes. For the Lord's sake! how much did Cortelyou and Babcock get of the funds that should have been sacred to the widows and orphans of policy-holders? And with the other insurance companies and the trusts and railroads still to hear from, the amount received by the chairman of the Republican national and congressional committees must have amounted to many millions. No wonder the Democrats were defeated. The worst of it is that the election of President Roosevelt is stained with the tainted millions of which no restitution has been made to the real owner. And get Roosevelt pose before the Public as a man among men. Rats!

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN EXPENSE.

In the discussion of the bill now pending in congress for requiring that all contributions to political committees shall be reported to the clerk of the house of representatives, some very interesting statistical matter was recently brought out. It was shown that from the very beginning of its career the Republican party has relied largely on the use of money in elections, and that in 1896 its national campaign funds amounted to \$16,500,000, while that of the Democrats reached only \$675,000. In 1900, the Republicans spent \$9,500,000, and the Democrats \$425,000. Strong efforts have been made to discover how much money Mr. Bliss and Mr. Cortelyou received in 1904; but though it has been proven that they and Mr. Babcock got enormous sums from the life insurance companies, and has been charged, and not denied, that they also received large sums from the trusts and railroads, it has been impossible to discover how much money was expended by

the party of corruption and special privilege.

Many of these contributions were taken from trust-funds by men like Perkins, McCurdy, McCall and Hyde; and District Attorney Jerome of New York, who has had Perkins arrested on the charge of larceny, said that if Perkins is guilty, then it follows that Bliss, the treasurer, and Cortelyou, the chairman of the Republican national committee, are guilty of receiving stolen goods knowing them to be stolen.

This may account for the silence of the president respecting these contributions. He would, no doubt, have ordered the stolen money to be restored to the life insurance companies, if it were not that restitution of stolen goods by the receivers after discovery, would amount to a confession of larceny and put the president's friends, Bliss and Cortelyou, in the same predicament with Perkins—a fact which would sadly interfere with the gaiety of the president's official family. He would not compel the members of that family to give evidence against themselves by restoring money stolen from widows and orphans who have no votes. That would be "a miscarriage of justice" almost as bad as that for which he lampooned Judge Humphrey in his recent message to congress.

TERRORIZING THE COURTS.

There was quite a little sensation created in the Senate the other day in the course of Senator Spooner's speech on the rate bill. Mr. Spooner referred to a case in which the court had rebuked the Attorney-General for criticising a judicial decision, whereupon Mr. Bailey asked whether Judge Humphrey had gone back on the bench by failing to rebuke the President for criticising his decision in the packers' case; and Mr. Spooner replied: "I stand with all my heart and soul for the distribution of powers between the three independent coordinate branches of the Government, and regard it as fundamental that none of these should be invaded by others. It will be a sorry day for the United States when the courts become terrorized by either Congress or the Executive. The place to correct the errors of the inferior courts is the great tribunal created for the purpose."

Terrorizing the courts by the Executive is precisely what the Administration relies upon as the means of accomplishing its objects. Roosevelt would regard any other means as lack-in strenuousness.

ROUGH RIDERS TO THE FRONT.

The Lampoonist of the New York World has evidently watched the careers of our two illustrious citizens, private Ben Daniels of Arizona, and Col. Roosevelt of New York, and declares:

"For our part we sincerely rejoice over the vindication of Ben Daniels. We look for great things from him as United States Marshal of Arizona. Certain muck-rakers in the United States Senate published broadcast the fact that Ben had served time in the Wyoming penitentiary for stealing a government mule. They hinted that he had 'killed his man' too. But they refused to look at the spiritual side of Ben, as President Roosevelt says all muck-rakers must do to be saved. They failed to consider that, no matter how many men Ben had killed, he had had a piece of one ear shot off. Ben frankly admitted that he stole the government's mule. Who knows but that he had a kind of personal feeling that the government's income was swollen beyond all healthy limits, and, acting on his convictions, shifted his own saddle to the mule's back? Ben

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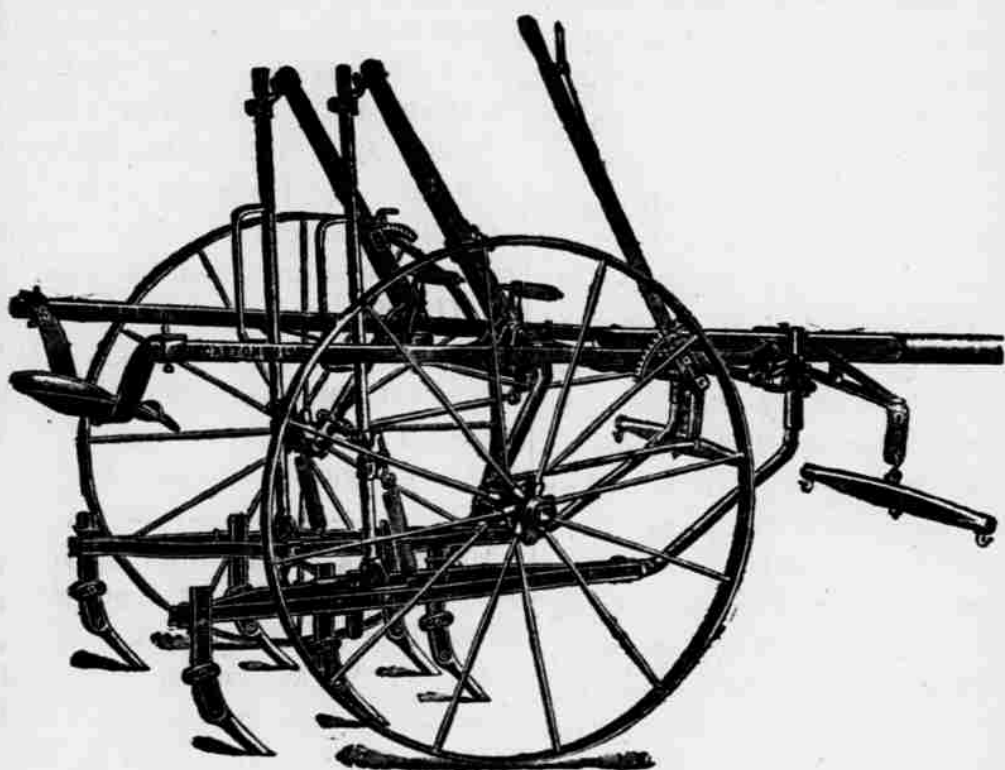
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